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and the compilation of an industrial directory (an up-to-date copy of which is kept in the office).

Department Library, a reference collection on industrial and economic subjects for the use of the entire department and the public. This collection includes the large number of publications which had been accumulated by the Bureau of Statistics since 1869 and special libraries of other offices now consolidated in the new department.

Public Employment Service, for the purpose of assisting employers in securing competent help and aiding workers to obtain positions. There are three State offices located, respectively, in Boston, Springfield, and Worcester. The operation of public employment offices was part of the work of the former Bureau of Statistics, and in the absence of a separate Division of Employment the administration of these offices has been assigned to the director of statistics, who acts also as assistant federal director for Massachusetts of the United States Employment Service with which the State offices work under a coöperative agreement.

The work of the former Bureau included also the taking of the Decennial Census of the Commonwealth, now transferred to the Secretary of the Commonwealth,* and the duties of compiling municipal statistics, of auditing municipal accounts and certifying notes of towns and districts, now undertaken by the Department of Corporations and Taxation.†

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THE FIRST NUMBER OF *METRON*

The appearance of the first number of *Metron*, the new international review of statistics, is an event in the development of statistical science deserving note. The object of *Metron* is to afford a common *locus* for "original articles on statistical methods and on the application of statistics to the different spheres of activity,"—articles published in the organs of the particular sciences with which they deal and not readily accessible to those interested in the application of statistics to other sciences—"and reviews or discussions of results obtained by statistical methods in various fields of science, or such material as may be of interest to the statistician." It publishes articles in English, French, German, and Italian. "The sole necessary condition of approval for publication is that papers shall make a contribution to the theory or practice of statistics of original value and likely to interest a greater or smaller number of students of statistics."

The first number contains the following articles:

- L. March. "La méthode statistique"—a discussion of the foundations of statistical methodology by the director of the French statistique generale, dividing methods of statistical analysis into three categories: (1) comparison of groups of observations by means of centering constants; (2) study of variability within the group; and (3) study of correlations.
- E. Czuber. "Ueber Funktionen von Variablen zwischen welchen Korrelationen bestehen." The author derives formulae for the mean and standard deviation of a function of correlated variables. The paper is a generalization of Pearson's formulae for the mean and standard deviation of an index.
- F. Vinci. "Sui coefficienti di variabilità"—a discussion of two functions for measuring variability.

* Massachusetts Acts, 1919, Chapter 350, Section 25.

† *Ibid.*, Section 52.

- F. Y. Edgeworth. "Entomological Statistics"—a continuation of the author's studies already published in other places on the average duration of expeditions of wasps from the nest.
- C. Gini. "La coscrizione militare dal punto di vista eugenico." Gini shows that conscripts marry later, but have more children than those excused from military service. Military conscription in Italy, therefore, is not necessarily dysgenic in its results.
- G. H. Knibbs. "The theory of large population-aggregates." Knibbs points out that constant rate of increase of population cannot continue for long, owing to limitation of natural resources, and that pressure of population is an important cause of war.
- G. Zingali. "Della misura statistica dell' abilita dei giocatori nelle corse al galoppo." This novel paper attempts to evaluate, for whatever purposes the reader may care to put the results to, the relative abilities of jockeys performing in the principal Italian racing classics.
- J. Bourdon. "La fiscalité de guerre (discussion)"—a general discussion of certain economic problems of the late war.
- F. P. Cantelli. "Sulle applicazioni del calcolo delle probabilita alla fisica molecolare"—a résumé of the work of various investigators in the field of molecular physics.
- C. Gini. "Ridolfo Livi (1856-1920)"—an obituary of the eminent physical anthropologist with bibliography of his writings.

Altogether it is apparent that if the catholicity of interest and the high quality of the articles in this first number are maintained, the future of *Metron* is assured. The general appearance and the typography of the journal are excellent. There is one editorial matter which should be changed. Following a somewhat general but not universal Italian practice, the author's name is placed at the end of his article instead of at the beginning. From a working bibliographic standpoint such an arrangement is most unfortunate. Whatever, if anything, may be said in its favor in a purely literary journal or review, it has no place in a scientific journal.

An examination of this first number makes it apparent that *Metron* will fill a real gap in statistical literature and will be required on the library shelves of every serious worker in statistical fields.

AN EMPLOYMENT INDEX FOR WISCONSIN

The Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, beginning July, 1920, has been collecting monthly data on employment conditions. There are reporting about 170 employers with over 80,000 shop employees—about 30 per cent of the total number employed in the state—and a weekly payroll of \$2,500,000. The data will be handled in much the same manner as it is in the *New York Labor Market Bulletin*. The number of employees and the total payroll will be compared each month, and average earnings will be compared with the cost of living. The Wisconsin bulletin, however, will differ from the New York bulletin in two respects: the material will be presented in a less technical manner, and instead of the retail food price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a monthly cost-of-living index, which will be constructed from the semi-annual cost-of-living index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as modified by the monthly changes in the cost of living reported by the National Industrial Conference Board, will be used.

The first bulletin, issued in October, contains two graphs which show the trend of employment since January, 1915. It was possible to secure data as far back as 1915, from employers representing between 15 and 20 per cent of the payroll of the state.